



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

November 23, 2005

### **S. 362**

### **Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on November 16, 2005*

#### **SUMMARY**

S. 362 would establish a program to reduce the amount of marine debris (such as plastic and lost fishing gear) in oceans and coastal areas and to mitigate its effects on health and navigation safety. Under the legislation, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) would conduct projects to identify and catalogue debris hazards and determine its sources and to develop methods of removing existing debris and preventing further occurrences. S. 362 would authorize NOAA to provide grants to nonfederal entities such as state or local governments and universities involved with those activities. The act also would direct the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) to improve enforcement of existing laws and treaties that address ocean pollution waste disposal at sea. For these purposes, the act would authorize the appropriation of \$12 million (\$10 million to NOAA and \$2 million to the USCG) for each of fiscal years 2006 through 2010.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 362 would cost \$2 million in fiscal year 2006 and \$60 million over the 2006-2010 period. Enacting this legislation would have no effect on revenues or direct spending.

S. 362 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA); any costs to state, local, or tribal governments would result from complying with conditions of federal assistance.

#### **ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 362 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget functions 300 (natural resources and environment) and 400 (transportation). For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 362 will be enacted in December

2005, that the authorized amounts will be appropriated for each year, and that outlays will follow historical spending patterns for similar activities of the agencies involved.

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
<b>CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>					
Authorization Level	12	12	12	12	12
Estimated Outlays	2	13	15	15	15

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

S. 362 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA; any costs to state, local, or tribal governments would result from complying with conditions of federal assistance.

## **PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE**

On March 18, 2005, CBO submitted a cost estimate for S. 362, the Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on March 10, 2005. The two versions of the legislation are very similar but, as reflected in the CBO estimate, the House version of S. 362 contains lower authorization levels for the USCG. The estimate for the House version also reflects a later assumed enactment date.

Also, the Senate version of the legislation contains intergovernmental and private-sector mandates because it would require the Coast Guard to issue regulations to improve the disposal of plastics and other garbage at ports. The mandates statements reflect these differences.

**ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:**

Federal Costs: Deborah Reis

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Sara Puro

Impact on the Private Sector: Selena Caldera

**ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:**

Peter H. Fontaine

Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis